

The Public Affairs Pulse

Keeping You on Top of Legislative & Advocacy Issues

PPWNM Peer Leaders Take Over Portland! By Staci Rickman

PORTLAND, OR — On March 21–24, three PPWNM Peer Leaders and members of our teen advocacy group Something to Say — Emily, Dionate, and Kelan, traveled with PPWNM’s director of education to Portland, Oregon to attend the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) Young Leaders Summit (YLS), a national conference for Planned Parenthood youth advocates from across the country! This summit runs concurrent with the PPFA National Conference for staff.

The youth attended workshops on topics such as “Advocacy, Outreach, and Activism,” “Building the Movement — One Leader at a Time,” “Privilege, Oppression, and Social Justice: A Peer Educator’s Perspective,” and “Going Viral: Video Messaging for Social Change.”

As a member of PPFA’s Young Leaders Advisory Council (YLAC), Emily had additional responsibilities at the conference. YLAC members were incorporated into the “Care. No Matter What.” branding campaign presentation at the PPFA National Conference, helped oversee the activities at YLS, and also facilitated workshops for the YLS participants.

In addition to the training they received at the workshops, YLS youth spent a day focusing on the GYT (Get Yourself Tested) campaign and worked in small groups to come up with fun, interactive, and educational activities that they could implement back in their home communities.

Students for Choice Lobby in Lansing By Liz Ratzloff (PPAM)

LANSING, MI — More than 30 college students from eight Michigan college campuses assembled in Lansing on March 27 for the 2012 Students for Choice (SFC) Lobby Day, held by Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan (PPAM), to educate legislators about the issues that most affect college women.

The day began with a press conference held by the Michigan Democratic Women’s Caucus. Rep. Marcia Hove-Wright, Sen. Rebekah Warren, and campus leader, Marcia, spoke about the recent political attacks on women, the significance of access to birth control without co-pays, and the importance of the Prevention First package of bills.

After receiving a legislative update and lobbying training from the director of political field operations from PPAM, students paired up to meet with politicians to explain the important and essential work they do on campus, the negative consequences of anti-choice legislation, and the positive results attributed to passing pro-active and preventive legislation. Students also delivered information about proposed legislation that harms women and preventive legislation included in the Prevention First package to all of the Michigan legislators with whom they were not able to meet.

Celebrating JET for Volunteer Appreciation Week

April 15–21 is National Volunteer Appreciation Week. This is a time for organizations to give back to those who give of themselves all year.

This year, PPWNM celebrated our volunteers with a party for the Justice Engagement Team (JET), our adult advocacy group. We gathered at the home of a JET member, and enjoyed snacks, drinks and crafts. We set up a t-shirt making station in the backyard and everyone took turns spray-painting shirts with the word “JET” and tiny airplane stencils. Each shirt was unique and fabulous. We can’t wait to wear them!



PPWNM would like to thank all of the 265 volunteers who donated their time and talent in the last year - more than 5,400 hours of volunteer time! Those hours are valued at \$107,069 by the independent sector who estimates the 2010 Michigan dollar value of a volunteer hour at \$19.79 per hour. We could not do it without you!

If you are interested in PPWNM volunteer opportunities, e-mail volunteers@ppwnm.org.

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